

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JERUSA 00560 280730Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----059590 280732Z /13

O 280650Z FEB 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0354
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 0560

EXDIS (HANDLE AS NODIS)

FROM ATHERTON

U.S. DEL. NO. 35

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, XF, US
SUBJECT: GAME PLAN FOR REST OF THE TRIP

1. AS WE GET READY TO LEAVE HERE FOR CAIRO IN A FEW MINUTES,
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO GIVE THE DEPARTMENT AND
ADDRESSEE POSTS A BRIEF OUTLINE OF OUR GAME PLAN
FOR THE REST OF THE TRIP.

2. IN CAIRO ON THIS STOP, IN ADDITION TO DEALING WITH
SADAT'S ORAL MESSAGE TO BEGIN, WE WILL CONVEY TO KAMEL THE
LATEST ISRAELI DRAFT OF THE DECLARATION AND I WILL THEN
CONCENTRATE ON TRYING TO NARROW THE DIFFERENCES ON THE PHRASEOLOGY
IN THE PARAGRAPHS OTHER THAN THE ONE ON THE PALESTINIANS. ON
THE LATTER I WILL RESTATE OUR BELIEF (I HAVE NOW CONVEYED
THIS TO BOTH SIDES) THAT OUR ASWAN FORMULATION IS
PROBABLY THE ONLY FEASIBLE COMPROMISE. IN DOING SO,
I WILL PROBE TO SEE WHETHER THE EGYPTIANS MIGHT BE
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ABLE TO DROP "LEGITIMATE" AND TO CONVERT "PALESTINIAN
PEOPLE" TO "PALESTINIANS." WE WILL ALSO PRESS OUR
CAMPAIGN TO GET THE EGYPTIANS TO PUT FORWARD THEIR
IDEAS ON WEST BANK/GAZA ISSUES.

3. WE ARE PLANNING TO RETURN TO JERUSALEM WEDNESDAY
EVENING. WE ASSUME WE WILL HAVE THE USUAL

SESSION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS ASSEMBLED
MINISTERS SOMETIME THURSDAY. ALSO ON THURSDAY, WE
ARE REQUESTING A MEETING WITH BARAK FOR THE SPECIFIC
PURPOSE OF GOING OVER THE FULL CASE FOR OUR
POSITION ON THE APPLICABILITY OF THE PRINCIPLE OF
WITHDRAWAL TO ALL FRONTS.

4. I HAVE BEEN PLANNING ALSO TO ARRANGE A SMALL
MEETING WITH DAYAN, WITH A MINIMUM OF OTHERS PRESENT,
TO BEGIN A DISCUSSION OF HOW WE BELIEVE THE BEGIN PLAN
MUST BE MODIFIED TO MAKE IT THE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS.
(THIS WOULD BE IN RESPONSIVE TO PARA 2 STATE 49597.)
IT WILL BE MOST USEFUL TO DO THIS, HOWEVER, AFTER
WE HAVE A READING OF HUSSEIN'S THINKING AND, IF POSSIBLE,
SOME SPECIFIC IDEAS FROM THE EGYPTIANS. I AM
THEREFORE PLANNING TO DO THIS WITH DAYAN AT OUR LAST STOP
HERE ON MARCH 8.

5. WITH RESPECT TO THE DECLARATION, WHILE WE MAY
BE ABLE TO EFFECT SOME MINOR IMPROVEMENTS ON THE OTHER
PARAGRAPHS IN OUR COMING STOPS, IT IS CLEAR WE WILL NOT
BE ABLE TO DO THIS ON THE PALESTINIAN PARAGRAPH BY MERELY
CONTINUING TO ACT AS A CONVEYOR OF EACH SIDE'S PROPOSALS. THE ISRAELI
DRAFT WE RECEIVED TODAY DOES NOT MOVE THINGS
FORWARD ON THIS KEY PARAGRAPH AND THE EGYPTIANS,
SEEING THIS, ARE ALSO LIKELY TO HOLD TO THEIR
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PRESENT LANGUAGE. WE MUST THEREFORE BEGIN TO THINK
OF THE TIME WHEN WE WILL WISH TO INSERT INTO
THE SITUATION OUR OWN COMPROMISE TEXT, INDICATING WE ARE ASKING
BOTH SIDES TO MOVE TO IT WITHOUT FURTHER HAGGLING, AS
THE ONLY WAY OF GETTING THROUGH THE IMPASSE. IN MY VIEW, WE
SHOULD DO THIS BEFORE I LEAVE, SO THAT THE ISRAELIS IN
PARTICULAR WILL HAVE A FEW DAYS TO DIGEST WHAT WE ARE
PROPOSING BEFORE BEGIN TURNS UP IN WASHINGTON. AT
THE SAME TIME, THERE IS MERIT IN DOING THIS AS THE
LAST STEP BEFORE MY RETURN TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE
POSSIBILITIES FOR THE PARTIES TO ARRIVE AT COMPROMISE
THEMSELVES HAVE TRULY BEEN EXHAUSTED. I WOULD
THEREFORE PLAN TO PUT FORWARD SUCH A TEXT IN CAIRO ON
MARCH 7, AND TO AVOID ANY ISRAELI FEELINGS THAT WE HAVE
HATCHED SOMETHING WITH THE EGYPTIANS, ASK SAM LEWIS TO
PRESENT THE SAME PAPER TO THE ISRAELIS SIMULTANEOUSLY, EXPLAINING
THAT I WOULD BE IN JERUSALEM TO TALK WITH THEM ABOUT
IT THE FOLLOWING DAY. WE ARE WORKING ON A DRAFT,
WHICH WE WILL OF COURSE SEND TO THE DEPARTMENT IN
PLENTY OF TIME FOR COMMENTS AND APPROVAL.
NEWLIN

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